

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 /083 W

----- 126742

R 100856Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SU, SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 964 B) MOGADISCIO 967 (NOTAL C) MOGADISCIO 972
(NOTAL) D) MOGADISCIO 960 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 4 SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAMSONOV ASKED TO SEE ME MORNING
OF JULY 5 TO DISCUSS SENATOR BARTLETT VISIT TO BERBERA. HE
CANCELLED APPOINTMENT FOLLOWING DAY BUT WE FINALLY GOT TOGETHER
ON JULY 7. HE APPEARED MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN HE HAD BEEN THREE
DAYS EARLIER.

2. I INFORMED HIM IN GENERAL TERMS OF SUCCESS OF SENATOR BARTLETT'S
VISIT AND MORE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY CONGRESSMAN
STRATTON. I ALSO EMPHASIZED POSITIVE NATURE OF SENATOR BARTLETT'S
FINAL EXCHANGES WITH SIAD (MOGADISCIO 964).

3. SAMSONOV TOLD ME THAT MISSILE HANDLING FACILITY AT BERBERA WAS
FOR SHORT-RANGE MISSILE FOR SOMALI NAVY (HE DID NOT RPT NOT USE
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WORD STYX) WHICH HAD RANGE OF ONLY TWENTY MILES. HE ALSO ADMITTED

THAT HE HAD OET WITH SIAD FOLLOWING BART-
LETT'S TOUR OF BERBERA.

HE SAID THAT SIAD HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN COMPLETELY IMPRESSED BY
HIS CONVERSATION WITH BARTLETT. I BELIEVE SAMSONOV WAS NOT TELLING
THE TRUTH.

4. REGARDING TECHNICIANS WHO ACCOMPANIED BARTLETT, SAMSONOV CLAIMED
THAT SIAD VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT EXPERTS WOULD DRAW CONCLUSIONS
AT BERBERA BASED UPON WHAT THEY WANTED TO FIND RATHER THAN WHAT
THEY SAW. I TOLD HIM TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE IN
THEIR APPROACH. MOREOVER, SUFFERING THEY HAD OBSERVED AT REFUGEE
AND RESETTLEMENT CAMPS HAD WON THEM OVER COMPLETELY TO SOMALI SIDE
AND ALL HOPED US COULD DO MORE TO HELP SOMALIA. THEY HAD NOT
RPT NOT COME TO SOMALIA WITH ANY FIXED IDEAS IN MIND.

5. I WOULD SUPPOSE THAT IT IS SAMSONOV, RATHER THAN SIAD, THAT WAS
CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN TECHNICIANS. SAMSONOV OF COURSE WOULD
HAVE BEEN MESSAGE BEARER TO SIAD WARNING HIM THAT BARTLETT'S
FOOTLOOSE TECHNICIANS AT BERBERA JULY 4 HAD SLIPPED SULEIMAN'S LEASH
AND WERE GOING PLACES THEY HAD NO RPT NO BUSINESS GOING (MOGADISCIO
960) AND STRATTON'S GROUP SHOULD BE HELD IN CHECK IF INTERNATIONAL
INCIDENT WAS TO BE AVOIDED.

6. FOLLOWING STRATTON'S LESS SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF BERBERA JULY 6,
REPORTS WERE SPREADING AMONG SOMALI OFFICIALS AT JUBA FOLLOWING
OFFICIAL BANQUET THAT STRATTON HIMSELF WAS QTE RETIRED PENTAGON
ADMIRAL UNQTE. THIS BIT OF MISCHIEF WAS, I ASSUME, ALSO OF
SOVIET ORIGIN.

7. SAMSONOV LEFT MOGADISCIO FOR TWO-MONTH VACTION ON JULY 8 --
TWO DAYS LATER THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED.
HAMRICK

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